

Virginia

FY 09

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Mission

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program resolves and develops solutions to coastal management issues to achieve more vital and sustainable coastal communities and ecosystems.

Program Goals and Objectives

The Virginia CZM Program links 11 state agencies, 8 coastal Planning District Commissions and 44 Tidewater cities and counties to:

- Protect and restore coastal resources, habitats and species; protect air quality; restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters; and reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life and property.
- Promote sustainable ecotourism, increase and improve public access; provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture; and, promote renewable energy production and appropriate extraction of minerals.
- Promote informed decisions by making available up-to-date technical advice/scientific data; avoid and minimize coastal resources conflicts; and, ensure sustainable development on the coast and support water dependent access.

Key Accomplishments

- Assisted Virginia's coastal localities in adapting to the predicted effects of climate change through better planning and land use management.
- Partnered with MD, DE, NJ and NY CZM Programs to create the Mid-Atlantic Council on the Ocean (MARCO). Developed an action plan for protecting the region's ocean resources. Began development of an on-line GIS portal to aid in marine spatial planning in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Acquired 26 acres of land within the critical stopover area for migratory birds on the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore and began restoring it by planting native trees and shrubs.
- Produced coastal zone-wide priority land and estuarine waters conservation areas maps to guide regional blue and green infrastructure protection efforts and assist localities with comprehensive planning.
- Developed a new wastewater disposal regulation that will help protect the high quality waters of the seaside of Virginia's Eastern Shore – which are critically important for shellfish aquaculture operations, a \$50 million dollar a year industry.
- Initiated a new social marketing campaign – 'Plant ES Natives' - to engage Eastern Shore residents in planting native species to improve habitat and protect water quality and quantity.

Key Priorities

The program's key priorities and needs for the next year, if provided more funding and support are:

- Climate Change planning and adaptation at state and local level
- Sustainable community planning focused on preserving blue and green infrastructure
- Mid-Atlantic regional ocean management – development of regional ocean data portal, alternative energy siting, habitat protection, and climate change adaptation planning.
- Promotion of "living shorelines" using techniques that protect property and habitat and developing policies to provide incentives for living shorelines.

A Program of the
Virginia Department
of Environmental
Quality

Coastal Population
in 2000:
4,440,709

Miles of Coastline:
3,315

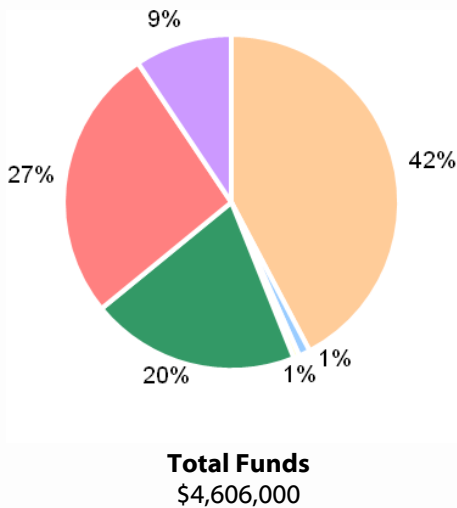
CZMA Funds:
\$2,571,000

State and Other
Matching Funds:
\$2,035,000

Total:
\$4,606,000



How was the money spent?



Community Planning and Development - \$430,985 (9%)

- Completed Shoreline Inventory Reports for City of Newport News and York County.
- Created and distributed a local Shoreline Management Planning brochure.
- Completed Shore Evolution Inventories for Gloucester and York counties and the cities of Poquoson and Newport News.
- Land-use planning recommendations were incorporated into one and drafted into two local comprehensive plans for the Dragon Run SAMP.
- Created Seaside SAMP as model marine spatial planning effort maximize ecological and economic value of this barrier island lagoon system.

Coordination and Public Involvement - \$1,940,359 (42%)

- Updated regional composite maps that identified conservation corridors requiring conservation action.
- Formed advisory workgroups that identified the impacts of climate change.
- Produced and distributed Eastern Shore native plants guide to 2,500 local residents.
- Created and distributed VA Green Environmentally-Friendly Tourism Practices brochure to 45+ hotels in the Fredericksburg area.
- The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority gained legislative authorization to construct and manage wetlands.
- On the Middle Peninsula, Dragon Run Day was held educating 1,100 participants on coastal issues.

Coastal Water Quality Protection - \$924,218 (20%)

- Continuation of retrofitting Tappahannock Wastewater Treatment plant with enhanced nutrient removal technologies.
- The interim stormwater management ordinance was reviewed for Accomack County.
- Provided staff support to Virginia Network of Education for Municipal Officials (VNEMO)

Coastal Habitat Conservation and Restoration - \$1,217,038 (27%)

- Assessed 396 wetland permits for compliance.
- Reviewed 939 development projects for potential impacts to natural heritage resources.
- Mapped 76,861 acres of SAV.
- Purchased 26 acre in-holding at Kiptopeke State Park and restored 13 acres of forest and a 5 acre pond.
- Responded to 276 marine mammal and sea turtle strandings.

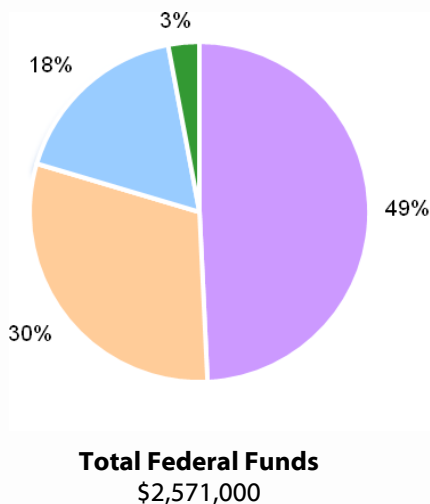
Coastal Hazards - \$50,000 (1%)

- Near completion of the Living Shoreline Design and

Public Access: \$25,900 (1%)

- Some data gathered for Seaside Recreational Use and potential uses data layer (Project Extended).

Who received the funds?



Community and Other Technical Assistance - \$780,447 (37%)

- Coastal Regional Planning District Commissions – local coastal technical assistance programs, county comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance updates, blue/green infrastructure protection, climate change adaptation.
- City of Virginia Beach/Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center – stranded marine animal rehabilitation.

State Partners - \$1,266,164 (60%)

- Department of Environmental Quality – Virginia CZM network coordination and outreach, federal consistency reviews.
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission – wetlands permit compliance inspections.
- Department of Conservation and Recreation – Eastern Shore land acquisition, local liaison to protect natural heritage resources.
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries – developed a comprehensive Priority Conservation Areas GIS dataset for Virginia's coastal zone.

Other Partners- \$76,071 (3%)

- Environmental Law Institute – Compiling and reviewing routine program change documentation.
- Back Bay Restoration Foundation – holding the Back Bay Forum on coastal issues and topics of concern (for 126 participants).
- The Nature Conservancy – Mapping of critical bird habitat.
- VA Shorekeeper – Conducting Virginia Eastern Shore Recreational Use Survey.

Academic Institutions - \$448,318 (18%)

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science – shoreline management research and training for local governments, tidal wetlands management support, SAV mapping.
- Virginia Commonwealth University – enhancing Virginia Coastal GEMS interactive mapping system.
- College of William & Mary Center for Conservation Biology – investigating the significance of the lower Delmarva Peninsula as a staging area for migrating whimbrel.

OTHER PARTNERS

Virginia Institute of Marine Science-Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia

Virginia Sea Grant | Clean Virginia Waterways at Longwood University | Hull Springs Farm | Wetlands Watch

Shellfish Aquaculturists | Eastern Shore and Northampton Chambers of Commerce | US Fish and Wildlife Service

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office | Mid-Atlantic Coastal Zone Management Programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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